



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH CITY OF BINGHAMTON

Teri Rennia, City Council President
Angela Holmes, City Clerk

MINUTES
City Council Business Meeting
Council Chambers, 38 Hawley Street, Binghamton, N.Y.
Wednesday June 18, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Called to order by City Council President Rennia at 6:32pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Council President Rennia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Jerry Motsavage, Joseph Mihalko, Teri Rennia, Lea Webb, Chris Papastrat, John Matzo

Absent: Bill Berg

Also in attendance: Angela Holmes, City Clerk; Jeremy Pelletier, Deputy City Clerk; Allison Sosa, 2nd Assistant Corporation Counsel

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from the Business Meeting held on Wednesday June 4, 2014.

Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.

Voice vote, none opposed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the Planning and Community Development Committee meeting held on Monday June 16, 2014.

Moved by Webb, seconded by Motsavage.

Voice vote, none opposed.

Motion to accept the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) prepared for the adoption of the City of Binghamton Comprehensive Plan update.

Moved by Webb, seconded by Papastrat.

Voice vote, none opposed.

Motion to approve the appointment of Makayala Martinkovic to the Binghamton Shade Tree Commission.

Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb

Voice vote, none opposed.

RECOGNITIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

City Clerk Angela Holmes read "A Proclamation in honor of James Alston" into the record.

Councilwoman Webb read "A Proclamation in honor of Juneteenth" into the record.

Council President Rennia read "A Proclamation in honor of Binghamton High School Class of 2014" into the record. Binghamton High School Principal Roxie Oberg accepted the proclamation and thanked City Council.



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Councilman Mihalko read "A Proclamation in honor of Seton Catholic Central School Class of 2014" into the record.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Introductory Ordinance 14-33. Considered in Finance, Chair: Berg

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to submit the Fiscal Year 40 Annual Action Plan and to accept any and all funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from the CDBG, ESG, and HOME Entitlement Programs

Note: Council President Rennia read the following statement into the record: "Notice of this public hearing was published in the Press & Sun Bulletin on Friday June 13, 2014. The rules concerning public hearings mandate that the legislation for which the hearing is to be held must be available to the public in its final form at least five days prior to the date of the hearing. City Council signed out this legislation at the Work Session on Monday June 16, 2014, which means less than five days have passed since the legislation has been available to the public. Tonight we will open the public hearing on Introductory Ordinance 14-33, and will continue the public hearing at a Special Business Meeting held on Monday July 7, 2014 at 4:30pm in the City Council Work Room in order to comply with these regulations. City Council anticipates voting upon this legislation at the Business Meeting held on Wednesday July 9, 2014, as the Fiscal Year 40 Annual Action Plan is due to HUD on Wednesday July 16, 2014."

In Favor: Scott Lauffer

Opposed: Martin Doorey

Introductory Ordinance 14-34. Considered in Planning and Community Development, Chair: Webb

An Ordinance adopting the City of Binghamton's Comprehensive Plan

Note: Council President Rennia read the following statement into the record: "Notice of this public hearing was published in the Press & Sun Bulletin on Friday June 13, 2014. Please note that the Comprehensive Plan is one of two initiatives developed by the Blueprint Binghamton project. The other initiative is the Main/Court Street Corridor Zoning Plan, formerly known as 'Form-Based Code'. The two initiatives have been developed as separate pieces of legislation—tonight's public hearing concerns the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan only. Kelly Saladis from Shumaker Consulting Engineering & Land Surveying, the sub-consultant managing the SEQRA process for this initiative, is present tonight and available to answer any questions from the audience or Council regarding the SEQRA process. Also, please note that, as with Introductory Ordinance 14-33, this proposed legislation was not available to the public at least five days prior to the public hearing, as the website to which the legislation was posted crashed. The website is now working again. City Council will continue the public hearing at the regular Business Meeting held on Wednesday July 9, 2014 in order to comply with public notice regulations. City Council anticipates voting upon this legislation that same evening."

In Favor: Scott Lauffer, Mary Webster¹, Jim Jones², David Hawley³

Opposed: Edward Crumb, Julian Shepherd

¹*Note: Mary Webster submitted the following letter to the City Clerk's Office on Tuesday June 17, 2014. A copy of the original letter is attached to these minutes.*

To City Council Members:

The members of Safe Streets fully support Blueprint Binghamton. We urge City Council to approve this far-reaching and innovative plan for the future of our city. We look forward to working with City Council members to implement the Urban Village District in our West Side neighborhood.



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The following are comments from Safe Streets members:

As someone who was a part of the Blueprint Binghamton endeavor from the beginning, I cannot say enough about how impressed I am to see the final product. The report includes every aspect of life in our city. It is an excellent representation of where we are today and where people would like to see the city go. I'm thrilled that the work that our students and faculty did in connection with this project had a direct impact on the final document. It needs to be used by our city leaders to move forward. (Mark Ward, MYP Coordinator, Binghamton City School District)

Blueprint Binghamton represents the culmination of many talented people devoting countless hours to develop a plan of the best ideas for the City to move forward. Please make sure this investment is put to the best use as soon as possible, so that we can start reaping the benefits of this plan. (Rosemary Markoff, Safe Streets Core Committee Member)

As a member and co-chair of Safe Streets I will be looking forward to the enactment of the initiatives proposed in Blueprint Binghamton. Most important to me is the Urban Village District. Many long hours went into this legislative effort for the betterment of the West Side. Implementation will be a positive step for the City of Binghamton. (Art Ospelt)

Please ensure that this letter is read into the public record.

Thank you,
Mary Webster, Co-Chair, Safe Streets

²*Note: Jim Jones submitted the following letter, signed by fifteen (15) residents, to the City Clerk's Office on Wednesday June 18, 2014. A copy of the original letter is attached to these minutes.*

The Southside Neighborhood Assembly was established 2006 to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood, ensure that the voices of neighborhood residents are heard in all matters and to provide a vehicle for the residents to act collectively.

The members present voted to express our very strong support of the Blueprint Binghamton: Forward together, the city's comprehensive plan. We unanimously endorsed the goals and objectives of the Plan. The organization has also supported Smart Growth and Complete Streets policies in all development initiatives. Some of these include:

- Walgreens Development Perimeter Plantings
- UHS Parking Lots Stormwater and Shade Improvements
- Grandes Parking Stormwater Improvements
- Auto Zone Rain Garden
- Southside Commons Pervious Pavements
- Mary Street Housing Stormwater improvements
- Street tree Plantings within the Business District
- Safe Crosswalk Improvements

In reviewing the Comprehensive Plan we find that many of the issues we have been working on or discussing over the years are addressed.



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We strongly urge your support of the Plan. We (I) feel that with the implementation of this plan the city of Binghamton will not only address many of the problems all neighborhoods are facing, but also improve the image of Binghamton as a more safe and pleasant community in which to live and develop a more economic friendly environment.

The following members have added their signatures in support of the Blueprint Binghamton: Forward together, the City's comprehensive plan and your support.

³*Note: David Hawley submitted the following letter to the City Clerk's Office on Wednesday June 18, 2014. A copy of the original letter is attached to these minutes.*

On behalf of the Preservation Association of the Southern Tier (PAST), I would like to urge your support of the Blueprint for Binghamton Plan.

The mission of PAST is to preserve our local heritage by promoting and protecting places of historic, architectural and cultural significance. Many of the parts of Blueprint Binghamton will positively impact our mission.

PAST believes that the housing plan will be beneficial in revitalizing Binghamton's economy and preserving neighborhoods. We are gratified that under goal 1.2, the plan will encourage historic preservation to maintain neighborhood character, and under 1.4 would assist residents in need with maintenance and repairs. Also, 3.6 (Develop incentives for conversion of obsolete rental housing to owner-occupied housing) would offer opportunities to restore historic properties.

The Economic plan will draw more visitors to the city to enjoy the many architectural treasures and the wide variety of cultural activities available here.

We also strongly support Goal 5 of the Land Use/Zoning portion of the plan which will "Protect Binghamton's historic character and encourage design excellence".

We thank you for involving the community in shaping this plan, and we urge the Council to approve it. We look forward to being a partner in insuring its successful implementation.

Sincerely,

David Hawley
President

PUBLIC COMMENT/COMMUNICATION

Donald Karn, Jr.; Edward Crumb

SECOND READING LEGISLATION

Introductory Ordinance 14-28. Considered in Finance, Chair: Berg

An Ordinance to amend the 2014 budget to fund the salaries and benefits for two new police officers

Note: First reading legislation occurred at the Business Meeting held on Wednesday June 4, 2014.

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Mihalko.



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Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 14-29. (Vote 4-2-0-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: Rennia, Webb

Abstain: None

Absent: Berg

FIRST READING LEGISLATION

Suspension of Rules. Motion to suspend the rules in order to consider the legislation relating to the School Resource Officers in the order recommended by Corporation Counsel, as follows: Introductory Resolution 14-43, Introductory Ordinance 14-32, and Introductory Ordinance 14-31.

Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Matzo.

Motion carried. Voice vote, none opposed.

Abstention. Councilwoman Webb requested permission to abstain from voting upon any legislation relating to the School Resource Officers, due to her personal business with the Binghamton City School District.

Motion to allow Councilwoman Webb to abstain from Introductory Resolution 14-43, Introductory Ordinance 14-32, and Introductory Ordinance 14-31.

Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Mihalko.

Motion carried. Voice vote, none opposed.

Introductory Resolution 14-43. Considered in Municipal and Public Affairs, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a School Resource Officer agreement with the Binghamton City School District

Note: Council President Rennia requested that her name be added to the sponsor list.

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Matzo.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 14-41. (Vote 5-0-1-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: None

Abstain: Webb

Absent: Berg

Introductory Ordinance 14-32. Considered in Finance, Chair: Berg

An Ordinance amending the 2014 Police Bureau budget adding two police officer positions effective July 1, 2014 and increasing estimated revenue to fund such salaries

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Matzo.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 14-30. (Vote 5-0-1-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: None

Abstain: Webb

Absent: Berg

Introductory Ordinance 14-31. Considered in Finance, Chair: Berg

An Ordinance amending the 2014 budget to transfer funds for two Police Officer positions, effective July 1, 2014

Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Mihalko.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Ordinance 14-31. (Vote 5-0-1-1)



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Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: None

Abstain: Webb

Absent: Berg

Introductory Resolution 14-42. Considered in Finance, Chair: Berg

A Resolution authorizing a supplemental agreement with Griffiths Engineering to provide design and construction inspection for Effluent Discharge Improvements at the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant (BJCJSTP)
Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Mihalko.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 14-42. (Vote 6-0-0-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Berg

Introductory Resolution 14-44. Considered in Municipal and Public Affairs, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution authorizing free parking July 10 – 13, 2014 for July Fest
Motion to approve legislation. Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Mihalko.

Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 14-43. (Vote 6-0-0-1)

Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Berg

Introductory Resolution 14-45. Considered in Municipal and Public Affairs, Chair: Motsavage

A Resolution urging Broome County to reconsider the closure of the Broome County Mental Health Clinic

1. Motion to approve legislation.
Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.
2. Motion to amend the legislation to add an additional resolve, stating: "We also urge the Broome County Legislature to hold a public hearing before its scheduled September legislative proceedings".
Moved by Webb, seconded by Motsavage.
Motion carried. Voice vote, none opposed.

3. Motion to approve legislation, as amended.
Moved by Motsavage, seconded by Webb.
Motion carried. Legislation adopted as Permanent Resolution 14-44. (Vote 6-0-0-1)
Ayes: Motsavage, Mihalko, Rennia, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Berg

COMMUNICATIONS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Motsavage, Mihalko, Webb, Papastrat, Matzo, Rennia



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ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:22pm.

Moved by Mihalko, seconded by Matzo.

Voice vote, none opposed.